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BOROUGH OF HARROGATE.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Report No. 210. Annual, 1896.

HARROGATE,
January 25th, 1897.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit the following Report for the year 1896.

The Births and Deaths within the Borough registered during the year were as follows:—

BIRTHS.

Males 141, Females 147 = 288.

DEATHS.

Males 110, Females 112 = 222.
Visitors (41) included.

The Birth Rate is 16·4 per 1,000 R.P.; the General Death Rate, including Visitors, is 12·6 per annum; the Death Rate of Resident Population only is 10·3 per annum.

COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS:

	BIRTH RATE.		DEATH RATE.
1890	22·7	1890	16·6
1891	20·7	1891	15·1
1892	21·1	1892	13·3
1893	19	1893	13·5
1894	20·5	1894	12·5
1895	20	1895	12·6
1896	16·4	1896	10·3

AVERAGES FOR SEVEN YEARS: Birth Rate, 20; Death Rate, 13·4. These are of Resident Population ONLY.

MORTALITY AT EXTREMES OF LIFE.

	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Under 5 Years :							
Totals	56	54	41	76	61	60	67
Rate per 1000 ...	4·4	3·8	2·8	4·9	3·8	3·6	3·8
60 Years and over :							
Totals	83	98	80	97	89	98	65
Rate per 1000 ...	6·4	7	5·5	6·2	5·5	5·9	3·7

Averages for 7 years : Under 5 years, 3·8 ; 60 years and over, 5·7 ; totals of both, 9·5.
N.B.—All Visitors are included in this table.

DEATHS FROM SPECIAL CAUSES.

	1890.		1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.
Infectious Diseases	4	·2	4	·2	2	·1	2	·1	9	·48	1	·05	1	·05
Pulmonary Phthisis	14	1·07	16	1·1	16	1·1	13	·8	19	1·1	19	1·1	20	1·1
*Respiratory Organs	49	3·7	44	3·1	39	2·6	42	2·7	38	2·3	37	2·2	40	2·2
Organs of Digestion	26	2	20	1·4	16	1·1	33	2·1	17	1	27	1·6	10	·5
†Nervous Diseases...	30	2·3	26	1·8	34	2·3	44	2·8	44	2·7	40	2·4	43	2·3
Circulatory System	21	1·6	32	2·2	26	1·8	24	1·6	28	1·7	26	1·5	20	1·1
Urinary Organs ...	11	·8	5	·4	6	·4	7	·4	7	·4	8	·4	4	·2

* Pneumonia included. † Convulsions included.

MORTALITY FROM THOSE INFECTIOUS DISEASES ONLY AS SPECIFIED IN THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

	1890.		1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.	Totals	Rate per 1000.
Smallpox	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Cholera	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Diphtheria	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	·06	3	·18	nil.	nil.	1	·05
Membraneous Croup	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	·06	1	·06	2	·12	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Erysipelas	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	·06	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	·06	nil.	nil.
Scarlet Fever... ...	1	·07	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	2	·12	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Fevers — Typhus ...	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Fevers — Typhoid ...	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	·06	nil.	nil.	1	·06	1	·06	nil.	nil.
Fevers — Relapsing	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Fevers — Continued	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
Fevers — Puerperal...	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	1	·06	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.	nil.
	1	·07	nil.	nil.	3	·18	3	·18	8	·48	2	·12	1	·05

Average for 7 years : 0·15, with all Visitors included.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Measles	—	4	4
Diphtheria	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	2
Diarrhoea	3	2	5
Chronic Alcoholism	—	2	2
Rheumatism	1	—	1
Pyæmia	—	1	1
Cancer	7	9	16
Scrofulous Diseases	1	—	1
Pulmonary Phthisis	10	10	20
Diseases of the Nervous System	11	16	27
Convulsions	10	6	16
Diseases of Organs of Circulation	10	10	20
,, Respiratory Organs	8	9	17
,, Organs of Digestion	6	4	10
,, Urinary Organs	2	2	4
,, Uterus and Ovaries	—	2	2
Childbirth	—	1	1
Premature Birth	—	1	1
Marasmus	2	2	4
Old Age	8	9	17
Accidents	5	2	7
Influenza	3	2	5
Pneumonia	7	6	13
Debility	6	1	7
Diabetes	2	1	3
Tuberculosis	3	7	10
Anæmia	2	1	3
Suicide	2	—	2
Totals	110	112	222

All Visitors included, viz., 41, making 181 deaths of Residents only.

SUMMARY OF FOREGOING TABLES.

The Birth Rate is 3·6 lower than the previous year. Our standard Birth Rate is always much below the average, but a low rate of only 16·4 is unusual. In the last seven years it has dropped from 22·7 to 16·4.

The Death Rate of Resident Population only—estimated at 17,500—is 2·3 lower than last year. The General Death Rate, viz., including Visitors, is 2·1 lower than last year.

The Mortality at the Extremes of Life is ·2 higher than last year. In Children under 5 it is ·2 higher than last year. In those of 60 years and over it is 2·2 lower than last year.

The Mortality from Infectious Diseases is remarkable, being only ·05 per 1000, including Visitors.

Diseases of the Nervous System again head the list, for the fourth year in succession. This is a fact which, in my opinion, demands serious consideration, especially in connection with a high infantile mortality and such a diminishing Birth Rate.

SANITATION.

SECTION I.

Summary of Action taken during the year for the Prevention of the spread of Disease.

A.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

SMALL POX.—No cases.

TYPHUS FEVER.—No case.

TYPHOID FEVER.—2 cases; one imported.

DIPHTHERIA.—3 cases; one fatal, imported.

CHOLERA.—No cases.

ERYSIPELAS.—No cases.

MEASLES.—Many cases. Epidemic in February, March, and April; 4 deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.—11 cases; no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Many cases; no deaths.

DIARRHŒA.—Many cases in the Autumn; 5 deaths, all infants.

INFLUENZA.—A few cases.

PNEUMONIA.—13 deaths during the year; 6 in the first three quarters, 7 in the last quarter.

B.—PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act and the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act were both adopted on July 13th, 1896, and came into operation on Aug. 24th, 1896.

From September 1st to December 31st the following cases of Infectious Diseases were reported:—

Scarlet Fever	...	8 cases in 3 houses.
Diphtheria	...	2 cases in 2 houses.
Typhoid Fever	...	1 case in 1 house.

The Diphtheria and Typhoid cases were all imported, one of each being Visitors.

Prior to this date (September 1st), viz., from January 1st to August 31st, 3 cases of Scarlet Fever, 1 case of Typhoid, and one of Diphtheria had been reported.

INSPECTION AND INQUIRIES.

On receipt of notifications I visited every house and enquired as to origin, and into the sanitary conditions of the premises. Only in one house were the latter unsatisfactory. In the first Typhoid Fever case my suspicions were aroused in connection with the Milk Supply. On investigating this I found the milk came from a farm outside the borough, and I requested the dairyman to stop the supply from that source until such time as I could be assured of its quality, &c. The Medical Officer of Health for Knaresborough, in whose district the suspected farm was, ascertained for me that the milk cans were washed at that farm in water which was "excessively contaminated by cesspool drainage." The use of that water was stopped at once, and Knaresborough town's water substituted. By these means, what might have been a serious outbreak of Typhoid was averted, and no other cases occurred within the borough. One case, however, of a person who left the town, who had used this milk, developed Typhoid on her return to Wetherby.

In two cases of Diphtheria I found they were imported—one from Colwyn Bay, the other from York.

In the Scarlet Fever cases I found that two were imported.

In none of these cases were the milk or water supplies, or sanitary arrangements of the dwellings, at fault.

ISOLATION.

All the above-named cases were strictly isolated. In one house only did a case of Scarlet Fever extend to four other children.

The Sanatorium received four Scarlet Fever cases during the year. It has been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after the removal of the last case.

STOVING AND DISINFECTION.

The rooms occupied by infectious cases, with the bedding, clothing, &c., have been in every case effectually disinfected by the Inspector with strong sulphur fumes. By these means infection has been prevented from spreading in every case.

SECTION II.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE BOROUGH GENERALLY AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

The general sanitary condition of Houses, Drains and Sewers is very satisfactory. The Common Lodging-Houses, Slaughter-Houses, Bake-Houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops are in excellent order. Ashpits are much better kept and cleansed than formerly. A large number of these have been done away with and Sanitary Bins substituted (see Inspector's Report, appended). Privies we have practically made a clean sweep of, not more than half-a-dozen remaining in out-lying parts of the borough.

At my final inspection of the borough, and my report thereon in November, I drew this Committee's attention to the insanitary condition of four back roads. The Sub-Committee was requested to inspect them, and it has ordered them to be scheduled for repairs, &c. With these exceptions, everything was satisfactory.

The General Health of the community has been remarkably good, and the year closed entirely free from Infectious Diseases, with the exception of several cases of Measles.

SECTION III.

ACCOUNT OF THE ENQUIRIES MADE BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AS TO THE CONDITIONS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH, OR CAPABLE OF SUCH EXISTING WITHIN THE DISTRICT, AND OF HIS PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO SUCH.

All cases of Nuisances, defective House Drainage, &c., reported to me by the Inspector I have visited, investigated and reported. Legal Proceedings have never been necessary, as all notices and other instructions have been carried out.

In six cases the Main Drains of Houses have been found running through the houses. These have been taken up and turned outside.

Milk Supply.—Twice during the year Samples have been taken—26 in all—and analysed. All were found free from adulteration.

Many offensive Ashpits, and several Privies connected therewith, I have condemned and had removed, and Portable Dust-Bins and W.C's substituted.

Trades injurious to health: None.

SECTION IV.

Tabular Statements of Mortality are appended in Tables A and B, and on pages 1 and 2.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. C. WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.